Hearing Care for All Ages

Discover the difference expert hearing care can make in your life. With decades of experience, our licensed and certified audiologist will deliver the right solution for your hearing needs.

Start with a comprehensive hearing exam by asking your doctor for a referral to Bronson Constance Brown Hearing Center in Battle Creek, Portage or Kalamazoo.

To learn more visit bronsonhealth.com/hearing or call (269) 343-2601.

BRONSON
Constance Brown Hearing Center

Connecting you to your community since 1843

THURSDAY, January 23,2025

The Courier Leader

75¢

SERVING PAW PAW • LAWTON • MATTAWAN • LAWRENCE • GOBLES • VAN BUREN COUNTY

Volume 8, Issue 4 wilcoxnewspapers.com • 269-657-3072 USPS 564-620

As Arctic air blasted its way through southwestern Michigan earlier this week, it also brought lake-effect snow to the area. The photo above, courtesy of the Van Buren County Road Commission, was taken on 25th Street in Almena Township.

As Van Buren County schools closed for the second straight day on Tuesday, Jan. 21, Van Buren County residents braved near zero day temperatures and sub zero temps experienced at night during the first half of the week.
Photo courtesy/Paul DeYoung

Man convicted for attempt to steal $700k from Four Winds

HARTFORD – A federal jury has convicted a Chicago man for his role in a scheme to steal $700,000 from a Hartford casino.

The Office of the U.S. Attorney of the Western District of Michigan announced Friday, Jan 14 that Jesus Gaytan-Garcia was found guilty of transporting stolen money across state lines and theft from an Indian tribal organization

The charges stem from an incident on July 30, 2023, when someone called the Hartford Four Winds Casino and spoke with an employee there. The caller falsely claimed to be the tribal chairperson and said he needed the money to make an urgent payment. Investigators say a su-pervisor of the casino's cash cage gathered the money and followed the caller's instructions, de-livering the money to two people in Gary, Indiana.

Evidence led investigators to Gaytan-Garcia, who was believed to be one of those two people. They found a bundle of cash inside his home that included a paper band with the date of the robbery and the word "Hartford."

A casino employee was initially charged with embezzlement for her role in the incident, but those charges were later dropped.

No sentencing date has been set yet for Gaytan-Garcia.

In a statement, Totten thanked the investigators with the FBI and with the Pokagon Tribal Police Department for their work in the case.

"This case underscores the need for businesses, organizations and citizens to be diligent and cautious about phone and internet scams," Totten said.

Lawton Village Council considers public safety millage

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON - A public safety millage is still under consideration by the Lawton Village Council. At the village council's Tuesday, Jan. 14, meeting a village resident asked about the public safety millage formula.

During Citizens' Comments, Village resident Charlene Raber asked the village council what the formula was for extra millage for public safety.

Lawton Village Council President Josh Appleby told her the village council is still review-ing a public safety millage. President Appleby said the village council is considering approximately three mills, which would generate approximately $125,000.

He said that with the village's general budget of over $800,000, the police department's budget is over $500,000, leaving $300,000 for everything else.

"While we wholly support the police department, we have to be able to fund them better. We have been cutting away police positions and Department of Public Works (DPW) positions in order to fund them. The amount each residence pays is dependent upon taxable value of a home, it does not begin at $30 per residence per month," said Appleby.

According to Appleby, money from this millage would go entirely to the police department.

Lawton Village Police Chief Greg Cordes told the Lawton Village Council that the reality is the police department cannot afford another officer. "We need this special assessment in order to be able to fund that," said Cordes.

President Appleby brought an updated quote from Booko Brothers for the village police office and garage, totaling $32,352.47 to the floor for discussion.

Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg said that although the cost did increase, it was still below what was originally budgeted. Hackenberg said the quote includes some updates made to the project.

In a unanimous roll call vote, the council approved the police department office and gar-age updates.

President Appleby also brought the Midwest Electric right of way permit for fiber internet to the floor for discussion.

Village Manager Hackenberg stated that he approved of this permit, and it is on the out-skirts of the village, not yet within the village.

The village council how it could get Midwest into the village. Village Manager Hackenberg said he has spoken with Midwest, and the biggest problem that he is running into is that the village is serviced by AEP, while MEC is doing the fiber internet and cannot come into the village due to contracts.

President Appleby said that it is on the village "wish list" to get fiber within the village. Village Manager Hackenberg said he didn't believe the village was a designated site because they are working on underserviced areas, which the village does not qualify for due to having Xfinity and Frontier as providers.

Village President Appleby would like to the village look into whether the franchise fee from Comcast is still worth it, or have the service provided by another company that would be more beneficial.

President Appleby brought potential solar and wind permitting ordinances to the floor for discussion.

The village currently has no ordinances to prevent these from going anywhere, and Appleby said village staff is starting to get questions from companies potentially interested.

Lawton Village Council member Judith Peterson suggested this issue be sent to the Lawton Village Planning Commission.

The council approved sending the issue to the planning commission.

The council also approved a motion to hire Professional Planning Services to revise cellular tower language contract language.

Lawton Village Chief of Police Greg Cordes told the village council that complaints were down for the month of December. He said all officers made it through mandated training for 2024 and are now beginning mandated officer trainings for 2025. There were 866 total reports for 2024, and does not include all calls, as some calls, such as traffic stops that do not require reports.

GET YOUR NEWS ONLINE

Sign Up
Today for our E-Papers.
IT'S EASY!
Just visit our website @
epaper.wilcoxnewspapers.com
to start your $20.00 email Subscription.

Officers elected for Paw Paw Board of Ed

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - During the annual Paw Paw Board of Education organizational business meet-ing, held Jan. 13, board officers elected for 2025 include: President - Brent McNitt; Vice President - Dale Pease; and Secretary - Ray Martin.

The board approved the following arrivals:

Kaj Holm, Paw Paw Middle School science teacher; Jacob Crow - 23g After School Read-ing Intervention teacher, Tim Wicklund - 23g After School Math Intervention teacher, Pat Mahan – Paw Paw High School Robotics Coach (split position), Clayton Meyers – Paw Paw High School Ro-botics Coach (split position), and David Ayres – junior varsity baseball coach.

The board approved the departure of Cathy Lancaster, district nurse.

Citizens of the Month for December 2024 included Hannah Wright, sixth grade, Giselle Cruz, seventh grade, and Gabriella Angell-Dongus, eighth grade.

The Paw Paw Board of Education will meet next month, Feb 11, at 7 p.m. at Cedar Street Campus. A pre-meeting Meet & Greet with refreshments will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Grammy-winning Banjoist Alison Brown at Lucky Wolf in Paw Paw on January 25, 2025

PAW PAW - Alison Brown, a GRAMMY-winning musician, and GRAMMY-nominated pro-ducer, will perform an all-ages show, Saturday, Jan. 25, at 8 p.m. at The Lucky Wolf Theater. She will be appearing with the long-time members of her Quintet: John Ragusa (flute), Jody Nar-done (piano), Garry West (bass) and Bryan Brock (drums).

Brown is a former investment banker (with an AB from Harvard and an MBA from UCLA), and co-founder of The Compass Records Group which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2023.

She is also a frequent collaborator with actor/comedian/banjo player Steve Martin.

Although Brown began her musical career as a teenager in the Southern California blue-grass scene, she has built a reputation as one of today's most forward thinking and innovative banjo players. She is known for taking the instrument far beyond its Appalachian roots by blend-ing bluegrass and jazz influences into a sonic tapestry that has earned praise and recognition from a variety of national tastemakers including The Wall Street Journal, CBS Sunday Morning, NPR, and USA Today.

Brown is the recipient of the USA Artists Fellowship in Music and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the International Bluegrass Music Association. In 2019, she was in-ducted into the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame. Alison serves on the Board of Governors of the Recording Academy and as co-chair of the Steve Martin Banjo Prize.

On her new release, aptly titled On Banjo, Brown continues her musical explorations on a set of original compositions that explore the range of the banjo. The album features an eclectic cast of collaborators including Steve Martin, Kronos Quartet, Sharon Isbin, Anat Cohen, Sierra Hull, Stuart Duncan and members of the Alison Brown Quintet.

Brown has received accolades from national music magazines and newspapers including Billboard magazine which said, "Like James Taylor's voice or B.B. King's guitar, Alison Brown's banjo is an instrument possessed of a unique sonic signature and an inescapable beauty….an art-ist who never ceases to delight."

The Boston Globe wrote of Brown, "Brown's delicate playing is a far cry from the clickety-clack patterns of traditional bluegrass. It is smart, clever music, so rooted one moment, and then off on some fun, eccentric adventure."

Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 day of show. Doors open at 7 p.m.

The show is in the theater, which is on the second floor and accessible only by stairs.

Fire destroys camper trailer in Geneva Twp

SHAES firefighters navigated snow-covered roads and endured near-zero temperatures in extin-guishing a fire that destroyed a camper trailer on property at County Road 681 east of County Road 384, Geneva Township, early Monday.

SHAES was dispatched at 3:40 a.m. The trailer was engulfed in flames upon arrival. No injuries were reported. The cause remains under investigation.

ROYAL WEED
JANUARY DEALS
DELIVERY OFFERED W/IN 15 MILE RADIUS
SUN GROWN OZS $24
QUALITY PREROLLS 8/$20
ALL INFUSED PRE ROLLS & PACKS MIX&MATCH B2G1 .01 (HY-R, GOLDKINE, CAVIGOLD, CRUDEBOYS, STIIIZY, JEETERS, CHEECH & CHONG AND MORE!!)
ALL EDIBLES & BEVERAGES - MIX&MATCH B2G1 .01 (WYLD, PCPURE, WANA, MOJO'S, DETROIT EDIBLES, MONSTER & MUCH MORE!!)
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL POP UP SPECIALS! ROYALWEEDMI.COM
(269) 415-0675. 42800 W RED ARROW HWY, PAW PAW, MI 49079

we know insurance can be complicated.
luckily, we're experts.
simple human sense
MCKENZIE INSURANCE
303 E Michigan, Paw Paw, MI 49079
Hrs: Mon-Fri, 9-5; Sat by Appt.
mckenziemi.com • 269.657.2548
Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

FREE PREK FOR ALL
Winter Enrollment-Apply Today!
HELPMEGROWVANBUREN.ORG
(269) 539-5214
PreK for ALL
Great Start Readiness Program
Michigan's Nationally Recognized Pre-K Program
FREE PreK for ALL children who were age 4 by 12/1/24. Classrooms in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Hartford, Lawrence, Lawton, Mattawan, Paw Paw, Pullman, and South Haven. Classes run Monday-Thursday with qualified staff and include free meals, possible transportation, and hands-on learning.
These materials developed with funds from a grant awarded by Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential.
It is the policy of the Van Buren Intermediate School District that no discriminatory practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), be allowed in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Inqui-ries regarding the non-discrimination policies should be directed to Rebecca DePas, Director of Finance & Operations or Dave Manson, Superintendent, 490 S. Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064, 269-674-8091.

2ND FRONT PAGE

More victims come forward in contractor fraud case

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response and detectives worked on a case for several months involving contractor fraud. The investigation revealed that the suspect took over $95,000 from the victims with very little progress getting done on the residence he was hired to build over a long period of time. The suspect was charged with felony contractor fraud and Misdemeanor Unlicensed Residential Builder. "After the story aired on the news, we've had several other vic-tims come forward. Once those investigations are completed, those reports will be submitted to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for additional charges," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

"Our Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Corrections deputies once again received great news from a Livescan Analyst from the Biometrics and Identification Division for a match on fin-gerprints/palm prints taken. With the match in the system, suspects on an unrelated case will now be held accountable," said Sheriff Abbott.

For 2024, Corrections deputies booked in 2,508 individuals. Out of the bookings, 583 were felonies. "We had seven Correction deputies complete the corrections academy, and three confirmed lifesaving events from the staff in 2024 in corrections," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Victim Service Unit (VSU) responded to 42 calls in 2024. During those callouts, they were able to assist not only the law enforcement, fire departments, and EMS on scene, but 214 citizens. Our VSU has 16 members on it. Four of the members will be attending a training session in Kent County coming up," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a suspicious call in Almena Township. The call was a suspi-cious man in a white Honda minivan with tinted windows at a residence approaching the door with a container of dish soap. The owner was home and advised the subject he was trespassing and to leave immediately. The subject went to the minivan and left. "The caller was unable to get a plate as it appeared the vehicle didn't have one on it. The vehicle in question was never located," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response took a domestic violence call in Paw Paw Township. It was found through the investigation that the victim being assaulted was pregnant. The suspect had prior domestic violence charges in his past and is now facing charges after being lodged on this incident.

Uniform Response had a flee and elude in Paw Paw Township/Village of Paw Paw. The Sheriff's deputy attempted to stop a vehicle for improper passing and speeding just outside the village limits of Paw Paw. "The suspect didn't stop for the deputy until she pulled into to the Van Buren County Courthouse parking lot and tried to walk away telling the deputy she didn't have time for him as she was late to a court hearing. She was lodged for the incident and the judge was advised she wouldn't be in the courtroom due to the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled an assault complaint in Almena Township. It was found the caller/complainant was lying about the incident to get an individual in trouble. After review from the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office, that individual was charged with filing a false police report.

Uniform Response took a break-in to a residence and malicious destruction of property (MDOP) call in Paw Paw Township. Deputies were able to develop a suspect from the incident. The suspect now faces charges for the incident.

Commissioners approve Board of Health's groundwater use restricted zones

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners on Jan. 14, approved the adoption of an amendment to the Environmental Health Code to add Section 9.16, establishing Groundwater Use Restricted Zones. The Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health is responsible for responding to groundwater contamination.

Groundwater contamination has been found from the former KL Landfill site in Almena Township. Following an Oct. 8, 2024, public hearing, the Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health adopted an ordinance to amend section 9.1 and add new section 9.16 (Groundwater Use Re-stricted Zones) to the Environmental Health Code of the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department.

The regulation prohibits the installation and use of groundwater wells in a designated area of Almena Township unless approved by the U.S. EPA, EGLE, or the Health Department. This re-stricted zone supports remediation efforts at the West KL Avenue Landfill under the oversight of the U.S. EPA and ensures protection of public health and safety.

The West KL Avenue Landfill Group will plug any non-approved wells and provide suitable replacements at no cost to property owners.

Commissioners approved, on an expedited basis, the joint legal engagement letter with Covert Township to engage the services of Foster Swift for the New Covert Generating litigation. Van Buren County has been acting as an intervening respondent in the New Covert Generating litigation, utilizing the legal services of Foster Swift. Covert Township, as the primary respondent, has utilized separate legal counsel, while Foster Swift has served as the primary legal representa-tive throughout much of the litigation.

Commissioners said consolidating legal representation under Foster Swift will improve efficiency and consistency as the litigation nears its conclusion. There is no additional financial impact, as the county and Covert Township currently operate under a cost-sharing agreement for the litigation expenses.

Commissioners approved the juvenile court's request for out-of-state travel for visiting Rite of Passage facilities, including the Jan. 28, 2025, site visit to South Bend, IN., and future travel as needed for youth placement, subject to a signed court order. The juvenile court has identified an in-state residential placement shortage for youth requiring treatment, prompting the need to utilize out-of-state providers, including Rite of Passage.

The juvenile court has budgeted for out-of-state residential treatment and travel expens-es, which are included in the provider's program costs. An initial site visit to the Rite of Passage facility in South Bend, Indiana, is planned for Jan. 28, involving a referee, juvenile court probation officer supervisor, and three probation officers. Future youth placements may require travel to facilities in other states, with probation officers visiting placed youth every 90 days to ensure compliance and care. Commissioners said timely placement of youth in out-of-state facilities is critical to prevent extended stays in detention and facilitate immediate access to necessary treatment.

Commissioners approved the appointment of Richard Godfrey to the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Oversight Policy Board (OPB) for a two-year term, effective Jan. 1, 2025, through January 1, 2027. Godfrey has served on the SUD Oversight Policy Board throughout his tenure as a county commissioner and wishes to continue his service. The request to appoint Godfrey for a two-year term, which began Jan. 1, and expires Jan. 1, 2027, allows him to attend the next board meeting scheduled before the next regular Van Buren County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioners approved the consultation and training contract with Rachel Lind-ley for full-time consultation from January 27 to Feb. 24, 2025, followed by part-time consultation of up to 15 hours per week from Feb. 24 to April 30, 2025. The Circuit Court has hired a new Specialty Court Administrator who will begin employment on January 27. Lindley, the outgoing Spe-cialty Court Administrator, will transition from her fulltime employment status on Friday, Jan. 24, and agreed to provide consultation and training to ensure a smooth transition. The training plan includes one month of full-time consultation from Jan. 27 to Feb. 24, 2025, followed by a reduction to a maximum of 15 billable hours per week from Feb. 24 to April 30, 2025, to assist with the completion of a quarterly grant cycle and other critical tasks. Commissioners said this arrangement will ensure continuity in the administration of grants, programs, and distributions managed by the Specialty Court.

Commissioners approved on an expedited basis the grant agreement between the Michi-gan Strategic Fund and Van Buren County for the Michigan CDBG Program (Revolving Loan Fund). The existing agreement between Van Buren County and the Michigan Strategic Fund expired due to an oversight, and it was necessary to renew the agreement for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, to ensure continued operation of the RLF. Failure to renew the agreement would necessitate the return of the RLF funds to the State of Michigan, thereby disrupting eco-nomic development efforts within the county. Renewal of this agreement will allow the county, through its EDC and Market1, to operate the RLF and ensure eligibility to recover costs for the third and fourth quarters of 2024.

The Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) administers the Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to support economic development initiatives through the operation of a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Van Buren County has previously participated in the Michigan CDBG Program and operated an RLF through its Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to support local businesses and economic growth.

Commissioners approved on an expedited basis at the Jan. 14, meeting, the Letter of Understanding with the Police Officers Labor Council. Commissioners were informed that Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reached an agreement with the Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) Deputies Unit to include the full-time Lead Security Officer position in the bargaining unit. This position, previously non-union, will align with existing compensation practices by receiving the same pay as the highest-paid road deputy, ensuring no financial impact to the county. This change will create operational efficiencies by enabling experienced road deputies to transition into the lead security officer position following the retirement of the current lead officer. The Letter of Understanding was reviewed and approved by Labor Counsel.

Commissioners approved a request for the salary exception for the assistant public defender position at the R34, D-2 step on the non-union scale. The Office of the Public Defender has selected a highly qualified candidate for the assistant public defender position, with over 19 years of experience as a roster attorney and expertise in handling high-level felony cases. The candidate's extensive experience will not only fulfill the position requirements but also provide valua-ble mentorship to less experienced attorneys. This position is grant-funded, ensuring no financial impact to the county's general fund.

GIVE YOUR FLOORS
A MAKEOVER!
2 car garage for $2,499
or 3 car garage for $3,499
*Up to 700 sq. ft installed. Signature blends. Exp: 10/31/24. CCMAG
• GARAGE & PATIO FLOOR COATINGS
• BASEMENT FLOOR COATINGS
• COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL
Granite Flake Floors
• UV Stable • Impact resistant • Abrasion resistant
• 100% seamless • Concrete resoration, protection & Design
• 15 year product guarantee
• Cheaper to coat than replace
SCC SUPERIOR CONCRETE COATINGS OF SW MICHIGAN LLC
LIFE'S TOO SHORT FOR UGLY CONCRETE!
269-525-4014
7144 S. 34th, Scotts
superiorconcretecoatingsofswmichigan.com
Scan to see our outstanding work and sample floor options

Our Town Players
South Haven Area Community Theater
Presents

The hilarious story of Cinderella and her long lost brother Bob, their reunion and a search for missing shoes.
January 31 at 7:30
February 1 at 7:30
February 2 at 3:00
Tickets on sale now: ourtownplayers.org
Listiak Auditorium, South Haven High School, 600 Elkenburg St.

Study indicates sports facility, event center needed for SH

By James Windell

Key findings and recommendations from a new study about South Haven as a destination was presented to the community on Thursday, January 16, 2025.

The comprehensive study, which was funded by the South Haven Van Buren County Convention and Visitors Bureau, was carried out by Conventions, Sports & Leisure International (CSL), a consulting firm. In a presentation by Tyler Othen of CSL, the findings and recommendations of the South Haven Destination Development Study were reviewed in the Maritime Heritage Center at the Michigan Maritime Museum.

Jennifer Sistrunk, Executive Director of the South Haven Van Buren County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the study was commissioned to develop a vision for the future and to come up with actionable steps that could be taken to elevate Van Buren County within the event, sports, and tourism industries. "Our mission is to enhance our destination and through marketing to get more people to come to South Haven to enjoy this place where we live and work," Sistrunk said when introducing Othen.

Othen pointed out that while there are about three million potential visitors to South Haven who live within 90 minutes of the city, the area tends to attract older rather than younger visitors. The Lake Michigan beach and downtown South Haven are strengths in terms of attracting visitors, he said, but the area needs high quality sports and music facilities. The greatest demands, Other said, were for a meeting and events center, an indoor court complex, sand an indoor turf facility.

"A four-court indoor facility model may be one of the best options for South Haven at this time," Othen said. He said that their analysis suggested that a sports facility could generate revenue of $7 to 10 million annually for the area.

While he indicated that a sports facility would increase the number of visitors and millions of dollars for local businesses, the cost to build such a facility would be about $25 million.

Othen concluded by emphasizing that the next steps would involve community discussion around what South Haven needs and how that could be accomplished.

Sistrunk says that the study and its recommendations are important for the community. "The study provides a roadmap for the community and interested parties to begin thinking about how we can expand our year-round economy in South Haven," she said

PET OF THE WEEK

LOBO

Lobo is a very happy and friendly guy up for adoption! He is good with dogs, cats, and kids. He also loves treats and running through the snow! He is up to date on vaccines, neutered, and ready for a new adventure!

For more information about Lobo or other animals at the shelter, contact Lindsay Downey, Kennel Director, 58040 County Road 681, Hartford. (269) 621-4624. Website: www. vanburencountymi.gov or e-mail; DowneyL@ vanburencountymi.gov

Red and Blue Welcome to South Haven Sign definitely All White

The Red and Blue Welcome to South Haven sign was definitely all white Tuesday morning as South Haven and Van Buren County received more lake effect snow during Monday night. South Haven Mayor Annie Brown, who found this photo on Facebook,sent it toThe Courier-Leader.

South Haven Senior Center has activities for everyone

By James Windell

Whether you want to grab a cup of coffee, borrow a book, take a Pilates class, attend a grief support group or use exercise equipment, the Senior Center in South Haven has some kind of activity for you.

Want to learn how to use a smartphone? They've got it. Meet your friends for lunch? You're covered. Play pickleball? Yep. Take a vacation to London? No problem.

The Senior Services of Van Buren County can accommodate you. In fact, Senior Services has logged 173,000 visits from local seniors in 2024. That included over 50,000 meals served and over 35,000 people who took part in an exercise program.

Diane Rigozzi, Executive Director of Senior Services of Van Buren County, says her program has experienced "amazing growth" in the past two years and "we just started talking to contractors about expansion."

In a recent interview in her office at the Senior Center, located at 8337 M-140, Rigozzi said that she is surprised about their growth. "We never thought when we moved into this building with 48,000 square feet that we would be expanding," she said. "But our kitchen is small, and our meals have just gone crazy."

The South Haven facility not only serves meals Monday through Friday, but it supplies meals for all the other senior centers it operates in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Casco, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Grand Junction, Hartford and Porter.

In addition to a computer lab, a card room, a pharmacy, classrooms for Tai Chi and other classes, fitness classes, the center sponsors day trips to activities in surrounding communities and more extended trips to places like Branson, Missouri (in April, 2025) and Atlantic City, New York City and Philadelphia (June, 2025).

"All of our programs are free," Rigozzi points out. "The only things we charge for are trips and our meals, which are just $5. Outside of that, everything is free."

Programs are not just confined to the Senior Center. "We have care coordinators who are social workers, so they go to senior's homes to help with safety issues in the home," Rigozzi said. "They will help with paperwork, such as insurance papers, and they will help seniors with their taxes."

Social workers do on-going monitoring, provide medical transportation and help seniors get ramps installed so they can get out of the house. The center also offers a medical loan closet, from which seniors can obtain medical equipment and incontinent products.

Besides planning for expansion of the South Haven facility, Senior Services is also involved with a housing project on property they own.

"We bought the property next to us," Rigozzi said "and we're working with Samaritas, a nonprofit organization, to build a 54-unit housing project that would be affordable housing for middle-income seniors." She explained that Samaritas will design the project and they will own and operate it. Samaritas will apply for a grant to help fund the project and Senior Services is assisting them to get through some of the loopholes involved in the grant.

With almost 5,000 new members in the past four years, Rigozzi says she is very proud of the growth of Senior Services. "I'm also proud of what we can do for seniors not only here in the center but in their homes. We are kind of in a rural area, so for many of our seniors their children have moved away, and they have nobody to help them. To be able to offer them help is just amazing. I'm very pleased that we haven't forgotten them."

Senior Services of Van Buren County is located at 8337 M-140, South Haven. Seniors can sign up for a free membership at the Senior Center. For more information, visit their website at seniorservices-vbc.org.

GET YOUR NEWS WHERE EVER YOU ARE!
Sign Up Today for our E-Papers.
IT'S EASY!
Just visit our website @
epaper.wilcoxnewspapers.com
to start your $20.00 email Subscription.
I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES
FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
The Courier Leader
SERVING PAW PAW • LAWTON • MATTAWAN • LAWRENCE • GOBLES • VAN BUREN COUNTY
Turnout huge at Beach Ball Drop
PAW PAW FLASHES
FREE
SUNDAY, January 8, 2023
Turnout huge at Beach Ball Drop
County Commissioners sworn in for new term

Avink McCowen Secord Funeral Homes and Cremation Society

Affordable Cremation & Burial Services for Southwest Michigan

ONLINE CREMATION
$1,695
amsfuneralhomes.com

FREE
Society Membership for Military, Firefighters & Police Officers
Excludes online services

Pet Cremations
$350

Schoolcraft (269) 679-5622
Portage (269) 344-5600
Vicksburg (269) 649-1697
Plainwell (269) 685-5881

Golden Greens Provisioning Center
North of I-94 Exit 52, Lawrence, MI. Recreational 21+!
270 Crandall Pkwy (269) 539 - 9000

Locally owned, operated & family run since 2021!

Weekly Daily Deals!
MONDAY - FRIDAY: Spend $100 get a penny Pre Roll!

Monday: 10% off Edibles All Day!
Tuesday: Buy 2 get 1 Wyld Gummies & Extra 1/2 gram flower w/ each 3.5g purchased!
Wednesday: 10% off Carts & Concentrates All Day!
Thursday: 20% off when you wear your GG apparell in store to shop! *BULK & discount flower excluded*
Friday: 10% off Edibles All Day!
Saturday: Extra 1/2 gram flower w/ each 3.5g purchased!
Sunday: Spend $20 in store to spin the Prize Wheel for a deal!
Everyday: *Subject to Availability*
- Assorted Pre Pack Ounces starting @ $25 + tax!
- Deli style ounces starting @ $60 + tax!
- Deli style grams $3 - $7
- Pre-Rolls starting @ $2
- Infused Pre-Rolls starting @ $6
- High Dose Edibles starting @ $5
- 1g concentrates starting @ $10

Penny Pre Roll with purchase for first time customers & REFERRALS! Veterans, Seniors & MED Card holders get 10% off!

Discounts & Deals do not combine or stack, exclusions apply
Not for sale or consumption by anyone under 21 years of age, valid govt. issued photo ID required for entry and purchase
All product specific specials subject to "While Supplies Last"

SPORTS

Gobles wrestlers earn medals

Freedom Morris, Alyssa Sparks and Sydney Raseman were medalists last weekend for Gobles.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — On Saturday (Jan. 18) the Girls Varsity Wrestling team competed at Kalamazoo Central's Ron Russo tournament.

"This event brings some of the areas best wrestlers together for competition," coach Dan Morris said. "Our girls stepped up to the line and wrestled tough all day."

Freedom Morris battled through a five girl round robin and came out with only one loss, earning her a silver medal.

"Alyssa Sparks continues to battle some of the best competition in the area and met two of the toughest on Saturday," Morris said. "She showed grit and determination in each match, bringing home a fourth place finish."

Sydney Raseman "is also growing into her wrestling shoes and learning as she goes," Morris said. "She will only get better as she practices hard and competes harder. Sydney also brought home a fourth place medal."

The girls have one more tournament before starting the post season.

Next Saturday Jan. 25, they will compete at Fennville in their Blackhawk Invite.

For the Gobles boys at the Russo Classic, Brody Marshall was first at 190 pounds. He beat Aidan Robinson of Mattawan 19-3 in the finals.

Gobles cheerleaders place second

Gobles is pictured during its round 3 performance at Allegan

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles varsity competitive cheer continues to push hard and has had a great start to the season.

Finishing fourth out of 10 in the first league meet and placing second place in Division 3 and 4 at the Allegan invitational meet, Gobles continues to perform very well.

The Lady Tigers went to WMU to their showcase and had a solid time performing with all the teams there. Senior Lillianne Ashbrook and Freshman flyer Bella Laughlin showcasing their one man stunt with the help of senior Presley Adams.

"The entire team continues to work hard," coach Sarah Ashbrook said.

The objective in the three rounds is as follows:

Round 1: Cheerleaders show off their jumping skills and ability to choreograph motions.

Round 2: Cheerleaders perform a precision drill, tumbling, jumping, and flexibility.

Round 3: Cheerleaders perform stunts.

Paw Paw boys defeat Edwardsburg

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's boys basketball team defeated Edwardsburg 57-52 on Jan. 15.

Paw Paw had quarter leads of 14-11 after the first quarter and 39-38 after the third. The Red Wolves trailed 29-23 at halftime.

For Paw Paw, Truman Brennan had 17 points, 3 rebounds, 7 assists and 1 steal.

Kaelin Tate had 16 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists and eight steals.

Caden Bowen had 10 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists and one steal

Barron Marinich had 6 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, and four steals.

"The Red Wolves came out firing in the first quarter," coach Aaron Beery said. "We struggled a little through the last four minutes of the second quarter which allowed the Eddies to catch up and take the lead going into half time. The Red Wolves came out and let their defense do the talking in the 2nd half. They caught and passed the Eddies leading by as much as 10 until some late shots by the Eddies pulled it to the final margin.

Otsego beat visiting Paw Paw 59-49 on Jan. 17. Paw Paw led 20-18 after the first but trails 33-30 and 39-36 after the next two quarters

Truman Brennan had 19 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists and 3 steals.

Caden Bowen had 10 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists and three steals

Barron Marinich had 8 points, 6 rebounds and 2 assists.

"The Red Wolves fall in this one to Otsego, a team we have not beat since 2021,'" Beery said. "We did not come out with the same effort, energy, or intensity that we did on Wednesday and it cost us. We were out worked and out hustled by a hungry opponent who is eager to turn their season around. We allowed Otsego to shoot 28 free throws and missed 23 layups which led to the loss."

The Red Wolves are now 9-2 on the season and 6-2 in the Wolverine Conference (2nd Place) with lots of games ahead. Paw Paw will be back in action on Tuesday Jan. 21 at Hackett Catholic Prep (9-3).

Bangor boys fall to White Pigeon

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR - Coach Rob Culbertson's Bangor boys basketball team lost at home on Monday to White Pigeon 76-49. Jonah Luter scored 17 points with 4 threes and 4 assists. Julian Pullins scored 12 points with 4 threes and 4 assists. Jaret McCoy scored 11 points.

Bangor scored six points in the first, 19 in the second, 15 in the third and nine in the fourth.

White Pigeon had 16 points in the first, 22 in the second 20 in the third and 18 in the fourth.

Bangor on Tuesday Jan 21 is home with Burr Oak. The record: overall 1- 9 and conference 1- 6.

Gobles 53, Bangor 33

Bangor played Gobles at home recently.

"We competed well for three quarters," Culbertson said. "Bangor had the lead 13-7 after the first quarter. The boys were down six points at halftime and down nine to start the third quarter. Julian Pullins scored 14 points with four threes and Jonah Luter scored 10 points.

Bangor girls

The Bangor girls are 3-5 after a 61-28 loss to White Pigeon. The girls had a game on Monday postponed with Marcellus and a game on Tuesday at Wyoming Lee cancelled. Bangor is at Cassopolis on Jan. 23.

Lexi Wisniewski had 10 points and Jaelynn Little had 16 points.

"The Vikings played their first game due to weather in 9 days. Vikings struggled against the White Pigeon press. But what the Vikings did was hustle from start to finish which will pay off the rest of the season,"Bangor coach Bree Witkowski said.

Lawrence defeats Marcellus girls

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — In girls basketball action last week, it was Lawrence 48 Marcellus 29

(Junior) Carolina Mancera had 21 points; (senior) Brooklyn Remelts had 9 points, (senior) Hailey Camp 8 points and (junior) Kaylin Leyva 7 points.

Lawrence now has a 6-2 record and is 4-2 in the Southwest 10 Conference. White Pigeon is 6-0 in the conference and 7-2 overall. Centreville is 5-0 in the conference and 5-3 overall. Decatur is 4-2 in the conference and 5-3 overall. Cassopolis is 3-2 in the league and 3-3 overall.

Lawrence will be at Bloomingdale on Jan. 23 and is at Comstock on Jan. 28 and at Hartford on Jan. 31.

Mattawan girls win

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan's girls basketball team beat Portage Northern 44-25 in action on Thursday, Jan. 8.

Mattawan sophomore Caitlin Ryan led all scorers with 20 points.

Tuesday's game was cancelled.

Mattawan now has a 2-8 record and will be at Battle reek Central on Tuesday before finishing the regular season with 10 out of 11 games at home.

Mattawan is home on Jan. 24 with Kalamazoo Loy Norris, on Jan. 28 with Marcellus Howardsville Christian, on Jan. 30 with Stevensville Lakeside, on Feb. 4 wirh Battle Creek Lakeview, on Feb. 6 with St. Joseph, on Feb. 13 with Portage Central, on Feb. 18 with Niles, on Feb. 20 with Portage Northern and on Feb. 25 with Edwardsburg.

Gobles places eight wrestlers

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles defeated Schoolcraft (51-24) and placed eighth out of 10 wrestlers entered at the Ron Russo Tournament.

Devin Doorlag and Brody Marshall anchored another impressive week for the Tigers at Kalamazoo Central. Mason Mansfield maintains the team lead in Takedowns and Tech Falls, and Brody Marshall holds the team lead in pins.

"Devin Doorlag is on an impressive run," coach Erin Carlin said. "He has not only been securing bonus points for his team but has also defeated three top-ranked wrestlers in the last week. Brody Marshall, once again, shows why he is one of the best wrestlers in the state with an impressive win over Mattawan's

solid 190-pounder in the finals at the Ron Russo to secure the Gold.

"The Tigers are gifted with mentally strong kids. Colton Colingsworth and Hunter Piper fit this bill as they continue to get the bonus points where others have doubted them. Both of these young wrestlers also placed at the Ron Russo Tournament after overcoming losses."

The Tigers have duals against Martin and South Haven on Monday, then Galesburg-Augusta and Parchment on Wednesday. They will top the week at the Buchanan Team Duels, where they expect to take home another team championship. Record: 4-2 Conference and 20-4 Overall.

"The Tigers are now ranked among the top teams in the state (D4), and their performance this week against competition from D1, 2, 3, & 4 merits their ranking. Nevertheless, the Tigers remain grateful for the opportunities to wrestle and show what a superior pace can do on the mat," Carlin said.

South Haven girls beat Bridgman

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's girls basketball team beat Bridgman 31-30 on the road on Jan. 15.

Ly'Nique Cunningham hit a 3-pointer to tie it up and then was fouled with 4.7 seconds to play to hit a free throw and win the game.

Cunningham had 15 points, four rebounds and three assists. Molly Verseput had six points. Neveah Cooper had six points and eight rebounds. Charlotte Grzybowski had two points and Reagan Hahn had two points.

On Jan.17 vs. Allegan, South Haven won 43-33. Ly'Nique Cunningham had 27 points, six steals and 10 rebounds. Veerseput had six points, and 10 boards. Cooper had seven points, four rebounds and five steals.. Grzybowski had three points.

This week, South Haven is home vs. Saugatuck, is at Dowagiac on Jan. 22 and is at Watervliet on Jan. 24.

STEGMAN RE GROUP LLC
Call Brian:
269-208-4492
BROKERED BY
RE/MAX LAKESHORE
EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.
Call Nick:
269-214-6594
With over a century of combined experience, we expertly serve all of your real estate needs in Southwest, Michigan and more.

ALWAYS FREE TOWING WITH ANY MAJOR OVERHAUL!
$129.95 TRANSMISSION TUNE-UP
Includes: Filter, Fluid, Check Codes & Adjust Bands if needed.
ATRA
Honoring All After-Market Warranties!
SNK Transmission & Auto Repair
keeping you on the road.
22203 M-40
GOBLES, MI
(Across from Wahmhoff Farms)
269-628-0186

PAW PAW DISTRICT LIBRARY
CHECK IT OUT!
UPCOMING EVENTS 1/27 - 2/1
Monday, Jan. 27
10 am-10:45 am
TODDLERS: Storytime
Tuesday, Jan. 28
10:30 am-12 pm
ADULTS: Color Me Happy
Wednesday, Jan. 29
6 pm-7 pm
CHILDREN: Exploration Through STEM
Thursday, Jan. 30
10 am-10:45 am
BABIES & TODDLERS: Mother Goose on the Loose
Thursday, Jan. 30
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
ADULTS: Between the Lines Book Club
The Book of Delights by Ross Gay
Visit pawpawlib.org or call 269.657.3800 for more information!

VIEWPOINT

Trump made many promises, not let's see if he can fulfill them

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Welcome to the greatest political comeback ever recorded. America has gotten the president they wanted, and Trump has chosen the cabinet he wanted, and now it's time to get down to business and make sure the promise that were made during the campaign are fulfilled.

Here's a partial list of what needs to be done:

First and foremost, because it affects ordinary citizens more than anything else, is the high cost of goods available for purchase. Yes, inflation has come down, but the cost of groceries and gas has not.

I just went to the grocery store and spent $200. I came home and realized the same groceries could have been purchased four years ago for $150 or less. AAA says the price of gas is 15 to 20 cents higher than last year, and of course four years ago instead of $3.15 a gallon we were paying slightly over $2 a gallon.

Interest rates remain high because the Fed is still concerned, we haven't curbed spending. Just last week mortgage rates went up above 7 percent, not down like most people expected.

Of course, all those is tied to campaign promise number two- as Trump would say, "drill baby, drill." Environmentalists and climate change advocates have had their way in the Biden administration, stopping the Keystone Pipeline and limiting offshore drilling. America just four years ago was supplying energy to nations all over the world, now we are purchasing from despot regimes like Venezuela.

The change was made in favor of windmills and huge solar farms. Green energy was considered favorable to oil and gas and nuclear. The latter is the most efficient clean energy we can provide, and I would hope the new administration would subsidize the building of new nuclear plants.

This said, providing our own energy (the reserves beneath us are the most in the world) will drive down prices, inflation and interest rates. It's a no-brainer to many middle-class Americans, but to the elites who prefer windmills, solar and electric cars- well, they could care less about the cost of goods or gas.

Trump's victory can also be attributed to the porous border. Biden and his henchman Mayorkas allowed millions of illegals to pour into our country, putting tremendous strains on public schools, law enforcement and city services. Trump has vowed to round up many of these illegals and return them to their native countries. Additionally, they plan to shut down the border, resume building the wall and the "stay in Mexico" policy. If you believe his border czar Tom Holman, that has already begun. We shall see how effective they are.

Trump has also said he will end the war in Ukraine. I've advocated for this for a long time. We have spent far too much money propping up Ukraine to what war hawks say is an imperialistic Russia hellbent on conquering Europe. I don't see it that way. I would rather spend the billions to help Americans. Let Ukraine, Russia and Europe settle their differences. Trump has signaled an end to funding the war. I hope he means it.

Trump has made many other campaign promises as well like getting the federal budget under control. Again, that affects you and I and must be accomplished.

As with every president, I wish them well. With Trump, "well" is even more important. He has survived two assassination attempts, and numerous criminal and civil lawsuits. No doubt, he is a survivor. I hope he is the "cat with nine lives," and can survive any more assassination attempts, and is able to work to fulfill his campaign promises.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Only the Olds will remember the chart above the blackboard in every fourth-grade classroom across the nation. It was the alphabet, both capitals and lower-case letters, in cursive.

It was bad enough having to learn how to print; now that we were big kids, we had to learn to write. Our efforts were meant to look just the letters on the chart, but most of us couldn't manage it.

Sometimes, to spur us on to plu-perfect penmanship, an Old would give us a Woolworth's pen and pencil set for our birthday or some other milestone event.

About the time I was learning cursive, there was a period when I wanted to become an archeologist like Howard Carter. He discovered King Tut's tomb after years of digging through parts of the Valley of the Kings in Egypt.

It looked exciting, challenging and fun. So read an article in the Reader's Digest about some place in eastern Canada where a vast buried treasure was waiting to be found. Apparently I wasn't the only one interested, because the Lagina Brothers got there first.

That same excitement returned 20 years ago when Pat and I ran into the niece of Hiram Bingham, the fellow who discovered Machu Pichu in Peru and parlayed that into a tenured position at Yale, then election to the U.S. Senate. A friend loaned us a 1911 National Geographic magazine where he wrote about his adventures.

There are still television programs about archeologists and the work they do around the world. What they show is far from the reality of the work. A lot of it is boring and done in miserable places renowned for scorpions, deadly snakes and malaria-bearing mosquitoes.

My sister's frequent news-laden emails and telephone calls have made that side of archeology very clear.

A half-century ago my hometown historical society bought the old Stoppel homestead. It came with a stone barn, stone house in poor repair, manmade caves used for storing crops plus farm fields. Attached to the home was a stone smoke house and one of the few stone outhouses in the upper Midwest. No one was going to tip that one over.

When the organization finally started restoration, they began with the outhouse. With small shovels, trowels, whiskbrooms and dustpans they worked their way to the bedrock quite a few feet down.

It seems that outhouses are a known repository for all sorts of things that might help historians understand the people who lived there. The project's archeologist and his interns hoped to make discoveries, research them and add them to a museum display. They would have the goods to help interpret life on the farm for a century and a quarter, starting in the 1850s.

Archeology might seem like fascinating, even glamorous work. In very practical terms, however, the crew was slowly digging through 125 years of, to be polite, "fertilizer." By then, it was mostly dry and certainly well composted, but still …

The interns went to school, perhaps graduate school and will be paying off their student loans from low-paying jobs for decades to come. All that to dig through ... fertilizer.

Apparently they did have exciting moments, such as the day they found several old glass beer bottles from the Schuster Brewery in town. Another day their work rewarded them with a few pieces of broken stoneware from the Red Wing pottery factory. A belt buckle, a few buttons and coins rounded out their excitement. Oh, and some clay pipe bits and pieces. But no gold, silver or other valuable commodities.

Their finds were hardly the makings for so much as the ubiquitous fifth-grade first-day-back-to-school theme on "How I Spent my Summer." In cursive, of course.

Only the rarest of archeologists are able to go off to faraway places with strange-sounding names to discover museum-quality stuff that might help rewrite history. Most university students with a degree in the subject scramble to get a job with a firm of civil engineers or construction crews to do site work before building starts.

Before erecting a new building, bridge or much of anything else, care has to be taken to make sure important icons of the past are not lost forever.

That is what happened with Richard III of England. After he was killed in battle in 1485, his body was unceremoniously dumped into an unmarked grave and, a couple centuries later, paved over to make a parking lot. A couple of years ago they found him again and, with great ceremony, buried in him a more fitting spot.

Today, careful archeological work is required to make sure that no sacred artifacts, especially remains of the indigenous people, are disturbed or mistreated. Anything found in their digs adds one more piece of information about those who came before us. That matters for all of us. So is treating the relic with respect.

As the movies' Indiana Jones pointed out to his students, most archeological work happens in libraries and research centers, not out in the field. That is where we come in, especially if you are one of the Olds who had to learn cursive writing back in school and can still read it.

Your local historical society, museum, maybe the library needs you. Ox-Bow School of the Arts needs you to go through boxes of documents, memoirs and diaries dating back to 1910, most of them hand-written.

Or go big! Uncle Sam's National Archives needs you. Strewn throughout their libraries and warehouses are long lines of shelves laden with countless boxes of documents collected over the centuries. Some of it is sitting in the same place they put it years ago.

Most of the papers are handwritten in cursive. If you can read them, the National Archives needs you. The good news is much of this work can be done online.

To get started, go to www.archives.gov, open the website's Citizen Archivist Dashboard and explore it until you arrive at the National Archives Catalogue. After that, pick an area of interest.

For example, would you like to work your way through some of the Revolutionary War Pension File Transcripts? That might seem about as exciting as slowly digging through my ancestors' stone outhouse until you realize some of the soldiers who earned those pensions used their money to move west to buy land to start their farms. In short, you are working on the history of the Westward Movement of our country.

That is just one of many areas where you could put your cursive skills to good use. And while you are at it, have a smug smile that we Olds are doing something most youngsters can't.

Not only can we read and write in cursive, we know how to use a rotary phone or change television channels without relying on a remote!

OBITUARIES

Dr. Martin John Bukovac

Dr. Martin John Bukovac, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Horticulture Department at Michigan State University (MSU), died Sunday, January 5, 2025, at Burcham Hills Retirement Community in East Lansing, Michigan. He was 95 years old.

The funeral service will be held at St. Martha's Catholic Church in Okemos, Michigan January 25th. Visitation 10-11a.m, Funeral Mass at 11:00. John is preceded in death by his wife, Judy (Judith Ann Kelley); his infant daughter, Nancy Ann; parents, Sadie (Fak) and John Bukovac, and his older sister, Mary A. Vodopic. John is survived by his daughter, Dr. Janice Bukovac-Phelps; his grandchildren, Morgan Rosentreter and Brandt Rosentreter, and his younger sister, Ruby Bukovac Hardy. He leaves many relatives, friends and colleagues in the United States, Canada, Croatia and around the world.

John was born in the rough coal-mining town of Johnson City in southern Illinois on November 12, 1929. When his father chose to leave the coal mining industry, his family moved to a fruit and vegetable farm near Paw Paw, Michigan when John was 10 years old. John attended Paw Paw High School, graduating in June of 1947. That fall he enrolled at Michigan State University.

John said that he was motivated to get educated so he would not have to raise cucumbers. John went on to earn his BS, MS, and PhD in Horticulture from MSU. During the Cold War (1951 - 1953), John served as a US Army tank unit commander along the West/East German border. While stationed in Germany he had the opportunity to visit Croatia and meet relatives and see where his parents were raised. John noted that his military training was essential to the development of his approach to research and communication: organized, focused, and direct.

John joined the Horticulture Department faculty at MSU in 1957. Over the next 40 years, John was the advisor to 18 M.S. and 17 Ph.D. students and mentored 41 postdoctoral students and visiting scientists. John's career was dedicated to development of plant growth regulators for fruit tree growers to improve the quality of their crop and the profitability of their farm. His approach was to focus on fundamental aspects of horticulture and translate those findings to meaningful applications within the fruit industry. His laboratory pioneered research on apple and cherry fruit physiology, commercial uses of plant growth regulators, the fundamentals of cuticular penetration, and spray application technology. His research and guidance eventually led to the commercialization of ethephon for cherry abscission, gibberellic acid for pasture grass production, abscisic acid for grape coloration, an improved benzyladenine formulation, and aminocyclopropane carboxylyic acid for apple and stone fruit thinning. John's pioneering work continues to impact the fruit industries. At some level, his handiwork is evident for each of us in the fruit we eat. The plant growth regulators he helped develop permit, for instance, mechanized harvest of tart cherry, improved apple and peach fruit size, and more intense coloration of fresh and processed fruit products.

John's contributions to science in general and to the agriculture industry in particular earned him numerous national and international scientific awards including membership in the United States National Academy of Sciences. John was a leader in the American Society for Horticultural Science, recipient of an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Bonn (Germany), and appointed MSU Distinguished Professor who was ever committed to the betterment of the Horticulture Department at MSU. As a scientist, John dedicated his career to the advancement of the Michigan apple and cherry fruit industries. In 2016, he generously endowed the Martin and Judith Bukovac Professorship in Tree Fruit Physiology in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at MSU to support a faculty position focused on the study of applied tree fruit research and outreach to the industry. John actively mentored students and faculty in the Horticulture Department even after his retirement in 1996, continuing to influence future leaders in horticultural science as recently as 2024. www.greastlansing.com

Peggy Lynn Shamblin

Peggy Lynn Shamblin, 70, passed away January 16, 2025, after an extended period of illness. She was born November 24, 1954, to Paul & Lillian (Scott) Knapp of Pullman, Michigan. She was the youngest child, having two older siblings, Patrick Knapp and Brenda (Knapp) Laraway.

She graduated from Bloomingdale High School in 1973 and then worked for L. Perrigo Company for over 20 years. She is fondly remembered by many friends and family for her short height and her sweet, but feisty spirit. In her younger days, she loved dancing to her favorite tunes at weddings, social gatherings, or even while cleaning the house on a Saturday afternoon. In 2016, she reconnected with her special friend Lyle Linsemier, who became the love of her life. She spent her remaining years in quiet happiness with him.

Peggy was blessed with two daughters, Lisa Hunt and Brandy (Davis) Yntema; as well as three grandchildren, Kaun, Lily, and Neil. She is survived by her children and grandchildren; multiple nephews and their families; her beloved, Lyle Linsemier, and many long-time friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings.

Services will be conducted at 12:00 PM on Friday, January 24, 2025, at the Terwilliger Funeral Home, in Kaleva. Visitation will take place from 11:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home. Interment will take place at Brethren Cemetery with a luncheon to follow.

The Terwilliger Funeral Home, in Kaleva, is in charge of arrangements.
www.terwilligerfuneralhome.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In response to reader's letter

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the editorial by Mr. William A. Geresy. His facts are untrue. It is another example of misinformation, and an attempt to rewrite history.
Total misinformation that Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Republican party had anything to do with the economic success in the 90's. The "Contract with America" was a failure and had nothing to do with the surplus that was created.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 was responsible for the robust economy of the 90's. It contained increased taxes in the highest 1.2% of wage earners. It reduced taxes on the middle class, and increased the earned income tax credit for lower income citizens. These policies proved to be highly successful.
The vote on the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993: 219-213 in the House with zero votes coming from Republicans; Senate vote was 50-49 with zero Republicans voting for the bill which also included a no vote from Speaker of the House Gingrich. It was opposed because the rich were given a tax increase, similar to today's attitude of the Republican party.

Why should Republicans get credit that had 100% opposition. Mr. Gersey believes falsely that Speaker Gingrich somehow deserves credit. His time as Speaker had very few positives. The surplus did not last long as the next administration went back to deficit spending. Vice-President Cheney and President George W. Bush felt that deficit spending was good for the economy.
After the infrastructure bill was passed many Republicans who voted against the bill went to their citizens to claim victory for new roads and bridges in their districts. How demeaning to voters.

It is time for Republicans to stop misinformation and trying to rewrite history. The attack on government on January 6th was not a friendly visit to the capitol that many Republicans are now professing. What a sickening development. Do not believe what a politician says publicly. It just may be the exact opposite of what they are saying in front of a camera. Sad, but that is presently the reality in politics.

Mark Austin

Reader appreciates Biden's stellar presidency

Dear Editor:

As the sun sets on your last days in office, I would send an expression of gratitude for your exemplary service to the people of our country. You sifted through the mess of the previous administration that ignored the pandemic and you organized and brought us out of the covid 19 nightmare.

Drug prices, especially for seniors, are lower because of the actions you have taken.

You chose to pass legislation to fix our neglected infrastructure. Something 45 said he was going to do but didn't.

Gasoline prices are the lowest they have been in a long time. The lowest unemployment in 50 years..

You made our NATO Alliance stronger and also added new countries to the alliance which enhanced the support for Ukraine against Russian invaders.

The COVID 19 pandemic produced a high level of inflation. Your Inflation Reduction Act addressed those concerns.

Thanks especially for not coordinating an insurrection because of a lost election. you carried yourselves exceptionally well.

You addressed the threat of Global Climate Change by putting us back in the 55 member Paris Climate Accords.

Thank you for a job well done. You both are on the correct side of history. God bless you and God bless America

Rick Wild
Lawrence Township

PreK program free to children in Van Buren County

By James Windell

Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is ranked #1 nationally.

And even better news is that the majority of 4-year-olds qualify for the free program.

Mechele M. Brower, M.A., the Grant Administrator and Early Childhood Contact for Van Buren County Intermediate School District, is on a mission to tell people about the PreK program. "I want to get the word out about our PreK program," Brower says. "I want to get more children in the program. The children are out there, and we want to give them a great foundation for kindergarten."

Brower says that there are PreK classrooms in all of the school districts in Van Buren County. "Children can go to a local school and our programs use research-based curriculums, either HighScope or Creative Curriculum," Brower explains. "GSRP works with families to help children be successful. Families can expect to partner with their teachers during two home visits and two family conferences."

All children who live in Van Buren County are eligible and to qualify children need to turn four by December 1 of the current school year. It is an all-day school program Monday through Thursday, and it follows the school calendar.

Brower emphasizes that it is a free program that is part of Michigan's PreK for All initiative. GSRP is a grant-funded program awarded by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP).

The Van Buren County PreK program is funded by grants from the state of Michigan. "School programs are free. The transportation is free, the meals are free and we take children on field trips and those are free, too. We don't ask parents to pay for anything," she says.

In addition, classroom teachers are qualified with lead teachers possessing a bachelor's degree from an approved teaching preparation program and have Michigan teaching certification.

Parents can enroll their children in the PreK program by going to the website HelpmegrowVanburen.org. All aspects of enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year can be completed online. However, enrollment for this school ends in April, 2025. In April, 2025, parents can enroll their children for the 2025-2026 school year which begins in September, 2025.

GSRP in Van Buren County is in the Early Childhood Department. Children of all abilities are welcome to apply for PreK. "We do inclusion," says Brower, "and we provide services – like speech therapy and occupational therapy – when it is needed."

For more information about GSRP and the PreK program, visit the website Helpmegrowvanburen.org. For enrollment questions, call(269) 539-5214.

TOWNSHIP OF WAVERLY
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN
ANTI-NOISE ORDINANCE FOR AREAS ZONED RESIDENTIAL

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1

An Ordinance to regulate incidents of excessive noise in areas zoned residential; to secure and retain the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents, property owners and property values within Waverly Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, by the regulation of noise within said Township; to prescribe penalties for the violation thereof.

SEC. 1. TITLE.

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Waverly Township Anti-Noise Ordinance".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

The following terms used in this Ordinance are defined as follows:

A. "Decibel" is a unit used to express the magnitude of sound pressure and sound intensity. The difference in decibels between two (2) sound pressures is twenty (20) times the common logarithm of their ratio. In sound press measurements, the sound pressure level of a given sound is defined to be twenty (20) times the common logarithm of the ratio of that sound pressure to a reference pressure of 2 x 10 to the –5 N/m2 (Newtons per meter squared). As an example of the effect of this formula, a three (3) decibel change in the sound pressure level corresponds to a doubling or halving of the sound intensity, and a ten decibel change corresponds to a ten-fold increase or decrease 1/10th the former intensity.

B. "db(A)" means the sound pressure level in decibels measured on the "A" scale of a standards sound level meter having characteristics defined by the American National Standards Institute, Publication ANSI s1.4-1971.

SEC. 3. ANTI-NOISE REGULATIONS.

A. General Regulations. No person, firm, or corporation within the R-1 and/or R-2, residential zones shall cause or create any unreasonable or unnecessary loud noise or disturbance, injurious to the health, peace, or quiet of the residents and property owners of the Township.

B. Exceptions. None of the prohibitions herein before enumerated shall apply to the following:

1. Any police vehicle, ambulance, fire engine, or emergency vehicle while engaged in necessary emergency activities.
2. Excavation or repair of bridges, streets or highways or other property by or on behalf of the State of Michigan, Waverly Township, or the County of Van Buren, between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when the public welfare, safety and convenience render it impossible to perform such work during other hours.
3. Any activity defined as a "farm operation" by the Michigan Right to Farm Act, 1980 P.A. 93, MCL 286.471 et seq.
4. The performance of routine vehicle maintenance or repairs.
5. Use of power-generating equipment during community-wide power disruptions.
6. Any activity occurring between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day.

SEC. 4. ANTI-NOISE REGULATIONS BASED UPON DB(A) CRITERIA.

In order to regulate and prove violations occurring under Section 3 of this Ordinance, any noise in excess of the maximum decibel limits according to the regulations stated below is deemed to be in violation of this Ordinance.

A. Regulations for decibel measurement of noise originating from private properties. Noise radiating from all properties or buildings within the R-1 and R-2 residential zones, as measured at the boundaries of the property, which is in excess of the dB(A) established for the districts and times herewith listed shall constitute prima facie evidence that such noise unreasonably disturbs the comfort, quiet and repose of person in the area and is therefore in violation of this Ordinance. Violations shall exist when the source or sources of noise are identifiable and the sustained levels emanating from the source or sources exceed the following limitations.

ZONING DISTRICTS	**LIMITATIONS 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**	**LIMITATIONS 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.**
R-1 and R-2 residential	**70 dB(A)**	**50 dB(A)**

Where property is partly in two zoning districts or adjoins the boundary of a zoning district, the dB(A) levels of the zoning district of the property where the noise is emanating shall control.

The following exceptions shall apply to these regulations under this Section A:

1. Noises occurring between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. caused by home or building repairs or from maintenance of grounds are excluded, provided such noise does not exceed the limitations specified in Section 4A by more than 20 dB(A).
1. Noises emanating from the discharge of firearms are excluded, provided the discharge of the firearms was authorized under Michigan law and all local ordinances.

B. Measurement of Noise. Measurements of dB(A) according to subparagraphs A of this Section shall be made by using a sound level meter of standard design and operated on the "A" weight scale, with "slow" meter response.

SEC. 5. SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.

The Van Buren County Sheriff, Van Buren County Deputies, the Waverly Township Zoning Administrator, and other designee(s), are authorized as local enforcement officers of the following acts and activities, which are hereby declared to be in violation of this Ordinance; provided, however, that the specifications of the same are not thereby to be construed to exclude other violations of this Ordinance not specifically enumerated:

A. The playing of any radio, phonograph, televisions, or other electronic or mechanical sound producing device, including any musical instrument, in such a manner or with such volume as to unreasonably upset or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of other persons.

B. The keeping of any animal, bird, or fowl, which emanates frequent or extended noise which shall unreasonably disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of any person in the vicinity; such as allowing or permitting any dog to bark repeatedly in an area where such barking can be clearly heard from nearby residential property.

C. The use of any motorized vehicle, including motorcycles, in such a manner as to create an unreasonably disturbing noise, including but not limited to, the screeching of tires and the discharge into the open air of exhaust from the engine without a sufficient muffler.

D. The erection, excavation, demolition, alteration, or repair of any building or premises, and including the streets and highways, in such a manner as to emanate noise or disturbance unreasonably annoying to other persons, other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on any day, except in cases of urgent necessity in the interest of public health, and safety.

E. The operation of any machinery, equipment, or mechanical device so as to emit unreasonably loud noise which is disturbing to the quiet, comfort, or repose of any person.

SEC. 6. VALIDITY.

The several provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be separate; if any Court of Law shall hold that any section or provision thereof is invalid, such holding shall not affect or impair the validity of any other section or provision of this Ordinance.

SEC. 7. NON-EXCLUSIVE REMEDY.

Nothing in this Ordinance impairs or precludes a separate cause of action provided by stature of common law for conduct prohibited herein.

SEC. 8. PENALTIES.

Any person, firm, or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan Statute which shall be punishable by a civil fine determined in accordance with the following schedule:

	Minimum Fine	Maximum Fine
- 1st Offense	Warning	Warning
- 2nd Offense	$250.00	$500.00
- 3rd Offense	$500.00	$1,000.00
- 4th or More Offense	$1,000.00	$1,000.00

Any person, firm, or corporation who refuses to abate a noise disturbance upon the demand of an authorized local enforcement officer, interferes with the officer's enforcement of this Ordinance, or retaliates against another who filed the complaint of a noise disturbance is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum 90 days in jail and a fine of $1,000.00 plus any court costs.

In addition, the Township shall have the right to proceed in any court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of obtaining an injunction, restraining order, or other appropriate remedy to compel compliance with this Ordinance. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect on February 1, 2025.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, as the duly elected and acting clerk of the township, hereby certifies that this ordinance was duly adopted by the township board at a regular meeting of said board, at which a quorum was present, held on January 2, 2025, and that copies of the ordinance were transmitted and published as directed.

Starr Houston
Waverly Township Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, TRUST ESTATE
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The **Settlor, Jonas H. McGowan (date of birth) May 18,1945 (6/18/45),** who lived at 202 Pleasant St., Hartford, Michigan, died January 1,2025 (1/1/2025). There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Jonas H. McGowan Revocable Trust dated,l January 4,2024 (1/4/2024), as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to Claud Hobson Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.
Nofrice is further given that the trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

January 21,2025

Sucessor:
Claud Hobson
68620 66th Ave.
Watervliet MI 49098
(269) 325-0447

NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S TRUST
Re: The Charles R. Maxwell Trust dated january 24, 2023, as amended
Date of Birth: April 8, 1927
TO ALL CEDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles R. Maxwell of 730 Mapleview Drive, Lawton, MI 49079, died on December 27, 2024.
No probate estate is currently contemplated for the decedent.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent and the Charles R. Maxwell Trust dated January 24, 2023, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to: Cynthia L. Goldberg and Kelle A. Dillon, named Co-Trustees of the Charles R. Maxwell Trust dated January 24, 2023, as amended, or to both the Attorney for the Co-Trustees, Chico S. Obande, and the Co-Trustees, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

January 14, 2025

Attorney:
Willis Law
Chico S. Obande P77880
491 W. South Street,
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269)492-1040
Co-Trustee:
Cynthia L. Goldberg
34113 Vauxhill Drive,
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 532-9114
Co-Trustee:
Kelle A. Dillon
165 Spicer Lake Drive,
Holly Tidge, NC 28445

State of Michigan probate Court Van Buren
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
FILE NO. 2025-1001-DE
Estate of GEORGE D. BOLTON, DECEASED
Date of Birth: October 23,1925 (10/23/1925)
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, George D. Bolton, died, December 8,2024 (12/8/2024).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Bradley J. Bolton, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw St. # 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

January 15, 2025

Attorney:
Willis Law
Chico S. Obande P77880
491 W. South Street,
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269)492-1040
Personal Representative
Bradley J. Bolton
7323 Tylerwood Ct.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 822-3372

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: DILLON SHELDON; ATTY: TEAM X; 1ST PUB: 1/9/2025; ATTY FILE #: 516165F02; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Dillon Sheldon, a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: May 6, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 12, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $147,627.70
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Gobles, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as:
Lot(s) 8, Block 7, VILLAGE OF GOBLEVILLE, NOW CITY OF GOBLES, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 19 of Plats, Page 634.
Common street address (if any): 108 Glover St, Gobles, MI 49055-9692
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1549575

(01-09)(01-30)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: FELICIA A FRENCH; ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 1/9/2025; ATTY FILE #: 499077F05; INSURER: (UNKNOWN NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Felicia A. French, an unmarried woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center, LLC
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: July 3, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 6, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $108,424.56
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as:
Beginning on the North and South 1/4 line of Section 1, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, at a point South 00 degrees 06 minutes 45 seconds East 1232.55 feet from the North 1/4 post of said Section 1; and running thence South 00 degrees 06 minutes 45 seconds along said 1/4 line, 261.36 feet; thence East, parallel with the North line of said Section 1, 500 feet; thence North 00 degrees 06 minutes 45 seconds West 261.36 feet; thence West 500 feet to the point of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 72999 County Road 665, Lawton, MI 49065-9421
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1549520

(01-09)(01-30)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR; THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. "ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice."
Default having been made in the condition of a Future Advance Mortgage, dated November 21, 2008, by Charles Kirby, Sally A. Kirby husband and wife and Charles E. A. Kirby, , as Mortgagors, to FIRST STATE BANK OF DECATUR, a Michigan Banking Corporation, as Mortgagee, and recorded on November 24, 2008, at Liber 1510, Page 290, Van Buren County Records, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid at the date of this
Notice of Sale SIXY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY AND 66/100 ($66,750.66) DOLLARS, principal; THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY AND 00/100 (3,270.00) DOLLARS, interest to 12/22/24; plus interest at the rate of 8.46% from and after November 7, 2023, ONE THOUSAND AND NO/IOO ($1,000.00) DOLLARS, late charges and THREE HUNDRED AND 10/100 ($310.00) for force placed insurance, for a total of SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY AND 66/100 ($71,330.66), as of the date of this notice, which amount may or may not be the entire indebtedness owed by Charles Kirby, Sally A. Kirby and Charles E. A. Kirby, husband and wife to FIRST STATE BANK OF DECATUR. The amount due on the mortgage might be greater on the day of the sale and that a foreclosure sale doesn't entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. No legal or equitable proceeding having been instituted to recover the debt, or any part of the debt, secured by said Mortgage, and the power of sale in said Mortgage contained has become operative by reason of such default. By reason of such default, the Mortgagor has declared the entire unpaid amount of said mortgage due and payable forthwith.
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 2025, at 1 PM at the East Entrance lobby of the Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079, that being the place of holding the Circuit Court in and for the County, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder, at public sale, for the purpose of satisfying the amounts due and unpaid upon the mortgage, together with interest at 4.600 per cent, legal costs, attorney fees and also any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays before the sale, and expenses of sale, as provided by law and in the mortgage, or so much thereof, as may be necessary to satisfy the debt, the lands and premises mentioned and described in the mortgage is as follows: Property located in the Township of Decatur, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, described as follows:
Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 26, Town 4 South, Range 15 West, described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section ; thence West along the South line of said Section, 1994.00 feet to a point which is 634.60 feet East the South Quarter corner of said Section; thence North at right angles to said South line, 834.09 feet; thence South 89 degrees 29'51" East, 1586.07 feet; thence South 75 degrees 30'39" East, 48.53 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 00 degrees 26'59" West, parallel with the East line of said Section, 197.46 feet; thence South 88 degrees 00'00" East, 354.975 feet to the East line of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 26'59" East along said East line, 240.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 37'23" West, 345.69 feet; thence North 09 degrees 20'36" West, 57.97 feet to the point of beginning.
Parcel No. 80-10-026-008-20 commonly referred to as 91402 Celery Center Road, Decatur, Michigan 49045.
Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the premises are abandoned. If the premises are abandoned, the redemption period will be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of sale or upon expiration of fifteen (15) days after the Mortgagor is given notice pursuant to MCL 600.3241a(b) that the premises are considered abandoned and Mortgagor, Mortgagor's heirs, executor or administrator or a person lawfully claiming from or under one (1) of them has not given the written notice required by MCL 600.3241 a(c) stating that the premises are not abandoned.
TO ALL PURCHASERS: the foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the Sheriff's Sale in the event a third party buys the property and there is a simultaneous resolution with the Mortgagors. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus any applicable interest. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the Mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
DATED: January 7, 2025 Brian T. DeVries
Attorney for Mortgagee First State Bank
P.O. Box 329
Schoolcraft, MI 49087 (269) 679-4535

(1-16)(2-6)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BILLIE LOU TAYLOR; ATTY: WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A. - WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A.; 1ST PUB: 1/16/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-001291; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER:
IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM a.m./p.m. on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Billie Lou Taylor AKA Billie Lou Danielson and Rodney Cartwright and Joshua Danielson. of Van Buren County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 24th day of June, 2004, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, on the 29th day of July, 2004, Liber 1418, Page 854, of the Van Buren County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $14,739.35 plus accrued interest at 8.25000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Lawrence, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Beginning on the East line of Section 7, Town 3 South, Range 15 West, at a point in the center line of Red Arrow Highway 1040.00 feet North of the Southeast Corner of the Section; thence North 88 degrees 31 minutes 00 seconds West on the center line of Red Arrow Highway, 200.56; thence continue North 81 degrees 55 minutes 00 seconds West on the center line, 83.61 feet; thence North 242.66 feet; thence south 89 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds East 283.30 feet to the East Section line; thence South on same, 255.41 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 56080 Red Arrow Highway, Lawrence, MI 49064 Tax ID: 80-13-007-051-20 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be twelve months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: January 16, 2025
By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 24-001291-1

(01-16)(02-06)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: ERNEST JAMES COREY; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 1/16/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-015961; INSURER: FHLMC
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The bid may include interest thereon at 5.62500 per annum and all legal costs, charges, and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land, including any and all structures, and homes, manufactured or otherwise, located thereon, situated in the Village of Decatur, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and described as follows, to wit: LOT(S) 15 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 14, BLOCK ZZ, VILLAGE OF DECATUR, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT OF 1905, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 31. Commonly known as 310 E EDGAR BERGEN BLVD, DECATUR, MI 49045 During the six (6) months immediately following the sale, the property may be redeemed, except that in the event that the property is determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCLA 600.3241a, the property may be redeemed 30 days after the foreclosure sale or when the time to provide the notice required by the statute expires, whichever is later. Pursuant to MCLA 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, of if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: 01/16/2025 Servbank, SB Mortgagee _____HLADIK, ONORATO & FEDERMAN, LLP Athena Aitas (P61824) Attorney for Servicer 3290 West Big Beaver Road, Suite 117 Troy, MI 48084 (248)362-2600 AFB FHA Enders - 24-03380
1550337

(01-16)(02-06)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: NATHAN ENDERS; ATTY: HLADIK ONORATO & FEDERMAN LLP - HLADIK ONORATO & FEDERMAN LLP; 1ST PUB: 1/16/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-03380; INSURER: FHA
MORTGAGE SALE - Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, made by Nathan Enders and Brandi Enders, husband and wife, Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc (MERS) as nominee for Success Mortgage Partners, Inc, Mortgagee, dated the 20th day of April, 2018 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for The County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, on the 24th day of April, 2018 in Liber 1667 of Van Buren County Records, page 834, said Mortgage having been assigned to Servbank, SB on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, the sum of Eighty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Four and 52/100 ($84,744.52). Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM o'clock Local Time on the 20th day of February, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The bid may include interest thereon at 5.62500 per annum and all legal costs, charges, and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land, including any and all structures, and homes, manufactured or otherwise, located thereon, situated in the Village of Decatur, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and described as follows, to wit: LOT(S) 15 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 14, BLOCK ZZ, VILLAGE OF DECATUR, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT OF 1905, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 31. Commonly known as 310 E EDGAR BERGEN BLVD, DECATUR, MI 49045 During the six (6) months immediately following the sale, the property may be redeemed, except that in the event that the property is determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCLA 600.3241a, the property may be redeemed 30 days after the foreclosure sale or when the time to provide the notice required by the statute expires, whichever is later. Pursuant to MCLA 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, of if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: 01/16/2025 Servbank, SB Mortgagee _____HLADIK, ONORATO & FEDERMAN, LLP Athena Aitas (P61824) Attorney for Servicer 3290 West Big Beaver Road, Suite 117 Troy, MI 48084 (248)362-2600 AFB FHA Enders - 24-03380
1550337

(01-16)(02-06)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, the 20th day of February, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
The mortgage was made by ROYAL TIDE PARTNERS II, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated March 30, 2022, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County, Michigan on April 7, 2022, in Liber 1736, Page 470 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.
As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Six and 71/100 Dollars ($688,796.71). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.
The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Township of Covert, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:
Part of the South Half of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 18 West, described as: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Section 36; thence North, along the East line of said Section, 515.00 feet; thence West, at right angles to said East line, to the Easterly right-of-way line of 1-196 Highway; thence Southwesterly, along said Easterly right-of-way line, to the South line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence Easterly, along the South line of said Southwest Quarter to the South Quarter post of Section 36; thence Easterly, along the South line of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 36, to the place of beginning.
Together with (a) all the estate, title, interest, and rights of Borrower in the premises and all buildings and improvements of every kind and description now or later placed on the premises; (b) all of the rents, profits, and leases of the premises and the tenements, hereditaments, easements, privileges, and appurtenance with respect to the premises; (c) all goods (including furniture, fixtures, equipment and appliances) and general intangibles now owned or later acquired by Borrower and now or later related to, affixed to, attached to, placed on, or used in any way in connection with the ownership, use, occupancy, or operation of the premises; (d) all of Borrower's rights, title and interest in, to and under all present and future land contracts, sales agreements or option agreements relating to the premises; (e) and all rights to make divisions of the premises that are exempt from the platting requirements of the Michigan Land Division Act, as it is amended.
Commonly known as: 47780 82nd Street and 47950 82nd Street,

Continues on page 9

Public Notice

Continues from page 8

Coloma, Michigan 49038
P.P. #80-07-086-010-03 and 80-07-086-013-00
Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be one (1) year from the date of sale.If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: January 17, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Timothy Hillegonds
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
31802495

(1-17)(2-7)

NOTICE OF PAW PAW TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

The Paw Paw Township Board of Trustees approved amendments to the requirements for wall signs and freestanding signs in all zoning districts, including maximum number, maximum height, maximum size, minimum setbacks, and illumination (Section 42-9.18 E).

Copies of related materials and the full Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map are available for review at the Paw Paw Township Hall during regular business hours (114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079). Relevant information is available by request- call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org.

Planning Commission Public Hearing: July 16, 2024
Township Board Adoption: January 13, 2025
Publication Date: January 23, 2025
Effective Date: January 30, 3025

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 36th CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
NOTICE OF HEARING TO AMEND LAKE LEVEL ORDER
SADDLE LAKE

DATE: February 4, 2025
TIME: 2:30 PM
LOCATION: Van Buren County Circuit Court
212 E Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
QUESTIONS: (269) 205-3293
vanburencdc@gmail.com

Hearing to Amend Lake Level Order
A petition dated December 9, 2024 was filed with the Van Buren County Circuit Court to amend the lake level order for Saddle Lake. The Van Buren County Circuit Court will review the petition on the above date, time, and location to receive evidence to amend the lake level order for Saddle Lake, located in Columbia Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, consistent with the provisions of MCL 324.30707.

Submitting Testimony and Evidence
The public may submit written testimony and provide evidence regarding the petition and this matter to the Court. The public may also attend the hearing on the above date, time, and location to provide oral testimony and/or evidence. The Court will accept written testimony and evidence via email at **Carrierp@vanburencountymi.gov** or by mail addressed to the **Van Buren County Circuit Court, 212 E Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079. When providing written testimony or evidence, include the subject-line "Saddle Lake – Lake Level Hearing (Case No. 24-074426-CZ)."** Please call the Court at **(269) 657-8200, ext. 2346 (please direct other inquiries to the phone number at the top of this notice) with any questions regarding submitting written materials.**

For additional information regarding the hearing, please call (269) 205-3293 or email vanburencdc@gmail.com. A recorded webinar about the lake level order and court hearing is also posted at: https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/902/Saddle-Lake-Level-Lake-Level-Order.

Hearing Accommodations
Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend the hearing should call the Court at **(269) 657-8200, ext. 2340 (please direct other inquiries to the phone number at the top of this notice)** or by using the Michigan Relay Service at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing to coordinate accommodations. All property owners affected may participate in the hearing by either submitting written testimony and/or evidence or by attending the court hearing to present testimony.

Joe Parman
Van Buren County Drain Commissioner
on behalf of the Saddle Lake – Lake Level District

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: KRISTIN POTTER; Atty: ANDREW BARNES - ANDREW BARNES; 1st Pub: 1/16/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by KRISTIN POTTER, a single woman, as Mortgagor(s), to United Federal Credit Union, as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated May 14, 2020 and was recorded June 26, 2020 at Liber 1702 Page 76 of Van Buren County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO AND 38/100 ($55,382.38) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at a rate of 6.375% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default. At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the City of Hartford, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the South quarter post of Section 16, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, City of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan and running thence with bearings referenced to the West line of Allen Huntley and Stickney's Addition to the Village of Hartford as a meridian, East 599.32 feet, thence North along the Southerly extension of the Westerly line of said Subdivision 757.62 feet to the Westerly right-of-way of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, thence around a curve to the left with a radius of 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears North 30 degrees 30 minutes 29 seconds East 418.73 feet, thence continuing around a curve to the left with a radius 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears North 25 degrees 48 minutes 48 seconds East 53.33 feet to the Northerly line to Pleasant Street, thence continuing around a curve to the left with a radius of 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears North 23 degrees 51 minutes 40 seconds East 127.18 feet, thence continuing around a curve to the left with a radius of 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears North 21 degrees 43 minutes 32 seconds East 82.15 feet to the point of a beginning of this description, thence South 87 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds West (historically described as North 87 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds East) 144.73 feet to the Easterly line of Pleasant Street, thence North along said Easterly line 75.09 feet to the Southerly line of South Street, thence North 87 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds East along said Southerly line 172.65 feet to the Westerly line of the C&O Railroad; thence around a curve to the right with a radius of 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears South 20 degrees 03 minutes 29 seconds West 81.30 feet to beginning; Address: 201 Pleasant St., Hartford, MI 49057; Tax Parcel No.: 80-52-816-010-20. together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: January 16, 2025 ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571) BUTZEL LONG P.C. ATTORNEYS FOR UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 269-287-2010

(01-16)(02-06)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF VAN BUREN COUNTY

Audrey Sperling Revocable Living Trust/ Estate of Audrey Sperling

Case No. 24-74373-CH

To: Estate of Charles Bryce Engle and Estate of Sandra Engle

Notice is hereby given to Estate of Charles Bryce Engle and Estate of Sandra Engle, whose whereabouts are unknown and cannot be ascertained after diligent search and inquiry, that a compliant for quiet title action has been filed against them in the Circuit Court of Van Buren County, located at 212 E. Paw Paw, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079.

The nature of the proceedings is as follows: This is a petition for quiet title actions on the grounds of that a land contract was paid in full and there currently resides a interest that belongs to the Defendant on title affecting the ability of the Plaintiff to transfer ownership of the property. The Plaintiff seeks that this cloud on title be resolved and requests that the court award all ownership interest to be transferred to the Plaintiff.

You are required to appear and defend against this action by filing your response with the court and serving a copy upon the Plaintiff's attorney on or before 3 weeks after the initial running of this notice , which was on January 16,2025 (1/16/25). Failure to do so may result in a judgment by default being entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: RON CRAFT; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 1/23/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-017259; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ron Craft and Suzanne Burrows-Craft, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Equity Mortgage, Inc., Mortgagee, dated April 28, 2004 and recorded May 11, 2004 in Liber 1413, Page 644 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-6, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety and 27/100 Dollars ($53,290.27).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 20, 2025.
Said premises are located in the City of BANGOR, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
BEGINNING ON THE NORTH LINE OF CASS STREET AT A POINT 465.00 FEET EAST OF THE WEST SECTION LINE; THENCE WEST, 102.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH, 86.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY PARALLEL WITH MONROE STREET, 112.20 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY TO BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF BLOCK 8, MONROE'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BANGOR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 17, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS.
108 E Cass Street, Bangor, Michigan 49013
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 23, 2025
File No. 24-017259
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-23)(02-13)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BRIAN EVES; ATTY: HOLZMAN, RITTER & LEDUC, PLLC - HOLZMAN CORKERY, PLLC; 1ST PUB: 1/9/2025; ATTY FILE #: DLN1549584; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Brian Eves, an unmarried man, ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated June 6, 2022, and recorded on June 10, 2022, in Liber 1739, on Page 459, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Fifty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars and 82/100 Dollars ($53,374.82) plus accrued interest at 9.000% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan @ 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Said premises are situated in the Township of Pine Grove, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 5, VILLAGE OF KENDALL, as recorded in Liber 19, Page 554 of Plats, Van Buren County Records. Commonly: 26853 County Road 388, Gobles MI 49055—Tax Id #80-15-065-004-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 9, 2025 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248) 352-4340

(01-09)(02-06)

Classifieds

• WANTED •

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER.
Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

GRANT DALY PAINTING:
Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING.
Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

HANDYMAN SERVICE
Frame thru finish, high quality, highly qualified carpenters. Call 269-903-6397.

HB HANDYMAN SERVICES IS LOOKING FOR WORK!

• FOR SALE OR AUCTION •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE WILL HOLD SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY AT A PUBLIC SALE PURSUANT IN

MEDICARE INSURANCE RATES GOING UP
Call for a quote today Janet Bontrager Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

NOW HIRING
Full & part time positions available for direct care staff. No experience necessary. All training provided.
Please call **269-628-9099**
to schedule an interview or apply online
cornerstoneafc.com

540.521-570.527: Public Auction: **1/28/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw:** Michael Hauck, 60; Brooke Collins, 90/109; Calia Nelson, 212; Nicole Summerton, 245; David Wigner, 329.

THREE MILE LAKE MOBILE HOME PARK

NOW AVAILABLE

2 and 3 bedroom new and used homes

Call Dave for appointment 517-290-1520

W.C. Askew, Sr., elected VBC Road Commission Board Chairman

W.C. Askew, Sr.

Doug Burleson

LAWRENCE - The Board of County Road Commissioners of Van Buren County re-organized its annual meeting held Jan. 9, for the 2025 calendar year. W.C. Askew, Sr. was elected board chairman, and Doug Burleson, vice chairman. In addition, Bret Witkowski was appointed by the board as Van Buren County Road Commission's Chief Fiscal Officer.

Commissioner Askew has been a member of the board since his appointment by the county commission for his first six-year term beginning in 2013. He served as board chairman in 2016 and 2017.

Commissioner Burleson was appointed by the county commission in June 2018 to fill a vacancy. He was then re-appointed by the county commission to his first six-year term beginning in 2023.

Chairman Askew said, "2025 will be another busy year for road construction on both the local and primary road systems across Van Buren County. Road Commission staff have been busy preparing for the 2025 construction season as we strive to improve not only the county road network, but also our long-term relationships with our transportation partners which include the townships, cities, villages, and taxpayers of Van Buren County."

For more information about the Board of County Road Commissioners, visit the Road Commission's website at: https://www.vbcrc.org/boardmeetings or contact Bret Witkowski, Managing Director, at (269) 674-8011, or via e-mail at: BretWitkowski@vbcrc.org.

Aric Nesbitt raises $1 Million in first 72 hours

PAW PAW - Republican Senate Leader Aric Nesbitt announced on Friday, Jan. 17, that he had raised $1 million in the first 72 hours since announcing his gubernatorial bid on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

"The outpouring of support I have received over the past 72 hours is indescribable. Money is of course a necessary resource in this fight, but it's just one tool in the toolbox that we'll need to win in 2026 and put Michigan First. We need a strong conservative leader to put these resources to good use; we cannot squander this chance to reclaim Michigan for the struggling families and workers who have been ignored," said Sen. Nesbitt.

Nesbitt, a sixth generation Michigander and Hillsdale College "Alumni of the Year" recipient, has developed a strong and consistent conservative record of results for Michiganders during his time in the legislature, and he will stand strong with President Trump to put Michigan First.

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Sen. Nesbitt became the first Republican to announce his candidacy to become Michigan's 50th governor, and the news dominated headlines across the Great Lakes State, as well as national media attention.

Coverage included from The Detroit News, Crain's, The Detroit Free Press, MLive, the Associated Press, as well as television networks across the state. National attention came from Fox News, The Hill, The Daily Wire and Politico's Playbook, among others.

WANTED

Sales Reps

THIS NEWSPAPER is looking for sales representatives to call on local businesses and sell them advertisements in our area newspapers.

- The position would initially be part-time, but could quickly work into full-time
- Work from home or from our office
- You can set your own schedule
- Pay is commission-based
- **Previous sales experience not required, but is preferred**

If you are personable, handle rejection easily, and love to make money, this is the job for you!

wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com **for more info**

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Double M Construction
Serving Southwest Michigan and surrounding areas
Metal Roofing
Complete Pole Barn Packages
Free Estimates
(269) 762-9920
56504 Butcher Road, Lawrence, MI 49064

HOME SERVICES INSTALL & REPAIR
JESI WALLACE
(269) 716-6131
Call for your free estimate today!
Paw Paw, Michigan, & Surrounding Areas
homeservicesinstall.com
- Home Maintenance
- Interior & Exterior Repairs
- Tile & Flooring
- Painting
- Lighting

Jim's Small Engine
43356 CR 653 Paw Paw MI 49079
Credit Cards Accepted
Chinsaws, mowers, snowblowers pressure washers, generators, etc.
269-674-9403
Larz Boley
Owner
LLC

OFFICE: 269-375-1425
WESTON SEPTIC, LLC
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
• Septic Tank Pumping • Install Risers
NOW HIRING!
Linda & Russ Weston, Owners

mckenziemi.com 269-657-2548
MCKENZIE INSURANCE
Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
Insurance for what matters most to you, since 1945.

WE CAN DO IT ALL!!
NO JOB TOO BIG • NO JOB TOO SMALL
Interior/ Exterior Remodels Kitchens Framing Drywall Flooring Baths
HB Handyman Services
269-599-8532
Soffit/ Facia Pressure Washing Roofing Siding Decks etc.
Owner Chris Hardenbrook
Chardenbrook82@gmail.com
Residential/Commercial
Free Estimates!!

EARL SANDERS & SON WELL DRILLING INC.
Since 1943
Trouble with your water well?
Low Pressure?
Smelly Water?
No Water?
269-806-6730
Email: earlsandersinc@hotmail.com

When protecting your Auto, Home and Life, the
EXPERIENCE MATTERS.
Call Derek Lietzau today!
(269) 655-1814
408 W. Michigan Ave. Paw Paw
DerekInsGroup.com
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE A Company

WATERPROOFING & CONTRACTORS RJ
Wet Basement?
- Internal/External Drain Tile Systems
- Water Seepage - Structural Wall & Floor Cracks
- Damp Wet Crawl Spaces
- Bowed & Cracked Walls
- Sump Pump/Emergency Backup System
- Mold Removal & Drywall Repair
24 Hour Emergency Service
Senior Discounts
269-337-7660
EXPERIENCED IN ALL METHODS OF BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CONSTRUCTION
SPECIALIZING IN METAL ROOFS, BATHROOMS, INTERIOR/EXTERIOR REMODELING.
HANDYMAN SERVICE
269-506-3942

Berrien County Cancer Service
We pick up after yard sale items that you don't want or sell and we pick up items from cleanups from garages, basements and houses. We don't take mattresses, furniture, recliners, shoes or books.
We pick up.
269-830-1161.
Ask for Kevin.
Every year we have a yard sale and all proceeds go to Berrien County Cancer Services.

WALT & MARIE'S COUNTRY MARKET
CATERING & MORE!
• DINE IN • TAKE OUT • PARTY PLATTERS •
• BUFFET STYLE CATERING •
RENT OUR CAFE FOR YOUR PRIVATE EVENT FOR ONLY $50/HR
• BUSINESS MEETINGS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES • BABY SHOWERS • WEDDINGS • & MORE!
WALT & MARIE'S COUNTRY MARKET
44947 W RED ARROW HWY
PAW PAW, MI
269-657-7570

Plain Jane's ANTIQUES
JANE KESTELOOT
SEEJANESHOP@YAHOO.COM
269•929•6162
- Vintage
- Rustic Decor
- Garden
- Jewelry
- Furniture
- Gift & Trinkets
- Primitives
- Antiquities
- Books
- Signs & Advertising
DOWNTOWN PAW PAW
229 E. Michigan Ave • Paw Paw, MI 49079

Jaqua SOUTH HAVEN'S TOP REAL ESTATE BROKER, 12 YEARS IN A ROW!
YOUR LAKESHORE REAL ESTATE EXPERT
Amy O'Sullivan
Associate Broker
www.SoldByAmyO.com
C.269.214.1257 | aosullivan@jaquarealtors.com
As seen on HGTV
513 Broadway St
South Haven, MI 49090

Specialize in:
Driveways • Garage Floors
Sidewalks • Curbs and Gutters
Patios
Baldo's Concrete
Oswaldo Alvarez
Contractor
(269) 598-3905
disago1974@gmail.com
instagram: @baldos_concrete
25+ Years of Experiance

GET YOUR NEWS ONLINE
Sign Up Today for our E-Paper
IT'S EASY
Just visit our website @ epaper.wilcoxnewspaper.com
to start your $20.00 email Subscription.

A1 PAINTING & POWERWASHING
QUALITY GARANTEED
FREE ESTIMAYRD
QUALITY GARANTEED
CALL 269-308-2323